

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 03569 060747Z  
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T MANILA 3569

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR, RP  
SUBJECT: BASE NEGOTIATIONS

1. SUMMARY: WORKING GROUPS EXAMINING U.S. PROPOSALS ON MILITARY BASES HAVE REPORTED TO PRESIDENT MARCOS AND HE HAS SENT REPORT BACK FOR FURTHER STUDY. SUBIC BAY, WATERSHED, AND JOHN HAY APPEAR TO BE PRINCIPAL PROBLEM AREAS. HE DOES NOT DESIRE AGREEMENT BEFORE ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS MARCH 6 I INFORMED HIM THAT CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS WERE NOW PROCEEDING ON FORM AND LEVEL OF COMPENSATION AND HOPE WAS THAT I WOULD BE ABLE TO PRESENT "INDICATION" BY MARCH 15.

3. HE REPLIED THAT THAT WOULD SEEM TO RULE OUT AN AGREEMENT BEFORE ELECTIONS ON APRIL 7. I RESPONDED THAT AGREEMENT COULD BE WORKED OUT BY THAT TIME IF HE FOUND OUR PROPOSAL SATIS-  
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FACTORY BUT ASKED WHETHER HE WISHED AGREEMENT BEFORE ELECTION. HE REPLIED THAT ON BALANCE IT WOULD BE BETTER NOT TO RAISE ISSUE BY CONCLUDING AGREEMENT. VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S VISIT MIGHT BE BETTER OPPORTUNITY.

4. I SAID THAT OBVIOUSLY VICE PRESIDENT WOULD NOT WISH TO BE INVOLVED IN DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS BUT THAT IF ANY POINTS AT

ISSUE COULD BE RESOLVED BEFORE THEN, THAT MIGHT BE AN APPROPRIATE TIME FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN AGREEMENT. I SAID THAT ASSISTANCE SECRETARY HOLBROOKE AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ABRAMOWITZ MAY BE TRAVELLING WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT AND IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR ABRAMOWITZ TO COME PRIOR TO THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO CONCLUDE ANY FINAL DETAILS. I ASKED WHETHER THE WORKING GROUPS EXAMINING OUR DELIMITATION PROPOSALS HAVE FOUND ANY MAJOR PROBLEMS.

5. PRESIDENT REPLIED THAT WORKING GROUPS HAD COMPLETED THEIR REVIEW AND HAD PRESENTED HIM WITH SUGGESTED RESPONSE WHICH HE FOUND UNSATISFACTORY. THEY HAD TOTALLY REJECTED U.S. PROPOSAL ON SUBIC BAY AND HE, UNDERSTANDING OUR PROBLEMS, HAD SENT REPORT BACK TO STUDY "ADDITIONAL OPTIONS." HE SAID WORKING GROUPS ALSO HAD SUGGESTED REVISIONS RELATING TO WATERSHEDS AND JOHN HAY. HE WAS NOT SPECIFIC. HE SAID HE HOPED TO HAVE REVISED REPORT WITHIN FEW DAYS AND IF HE FELT IT WAS SATISFACTORY, HE WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH ME.

6. IT IS OBVIOUS FROM THIS CONVERSATION THAT MARCOS IS STILL CALLING SHOTS ON BASE ISSUE AND PLANS DISCUSS PHILIPPINE RESPONSE DIRECTLY WITH ME. IT IS PREMATURE TO SUGGEST REASSEMBLING OF U.S. BASE NEGOTIATING GROUP (INCLUDING MCCLENDON AND DEBOBES) UNTIL I HAVE RECEIVED PHILIPPINE RESPONSE.

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